

### In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of stimulating a HIV1-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> response in a human infected with an HIV retrovirus said method comprising:

administering to the human, a recombinant virus ~~viral-vaccine~~, which enters the cells of the human and intracellularly produces HIV specific peptides for presentation on the cell's MHC class I molecules,

where said peptides are presented in an amount sufficient to stimulate a protective CD8<sup>+</sup> HIV structural antigen response, and

where said human

i. has a viral load of less than 10,000 viral copies per ml of plasma and a CD4<sup>+</sup> cell count of above 500 cells/ml, and

ii. has been treated with one or more anti-viral agents, which contributed to a lower viral copy and higher CD4<sup>+</sup> cell count than before treatment

where said HIV specific peptides comprise HIV Gag, Gp120, Nef or Pol ~~gag, gp120, nef or pol~~ peptides.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1 wherein the human has been treated with anti-viral agents, which resulted in the human having a viral load of less than 1,000 viral copies per ml of blood serum and a CD4<sup>+</sup> cell count of above 500 cells/ml.

3. (Original) A method of claim 2 wherein the anti-viral agents comprise a combination of protease inhibitors and inhibitors of reverse transcriptase.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 1 wherein the recombinant virus ~~viral-vaccine~~ is an attenuated recombinant virus.

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6. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 5 wherein the attenuated recombinant virus comprises a pox virus.
  7. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 6 wherein the attenuated recombinant pox virus comprises NYVAC or ALVAC.
  8. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 6 wherein the recombinant pox virus comprises MVA.
  9. (Original) A method of claim 1 where the vaccine is administered a second time.
  10. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1 wherein the HIV specific peptides are structural viral peptides.
  11. (Canceled).
  12. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein the vaccine further comprises an adjuvant.
  13. (Original) A method of claim 1 further comprising administering interleukin 2 or CD40 ligand in an amount sufficient to potentiate the CD8<sup>+</sup> response.
  14. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 1 where the human has been infected with HIV and has demonstrated repeated and sustained proliferative T-cell responses to Gp120 ~~gp120~~ envelope protein.
  15. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 14 where the human has demonstrated repeated and sustained proliferative T-cell responses to p24 Gag ~~gag~~ antigen.
  16. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 1 where the human is infected with HIV and is further tested by a skin test for a hypersensitive response to p24 Gag ~~gag~~ antigen.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 1 where the human is infected with HIV and is further tested by a skin test for a hypersensitive response to Gp120 ~~gp120~~ envelope antigen.

18. (New) A method of reducing viral load in a mammal infected with an immunodeficiency retrovirus said method comprising:

administering to the mammal a recombinant virus, which enters the cells of the mammal and intracellularly produces immunodeficiency retroviral specific peptides for presentation on the cell's MHC class I molecules,

where said peptides are presented in an amount sufficient to stimulate a protective CD8<sup>+</sup> HIV structural antigen response, and

where said mammal

i. has an immunodeficiency retroviral load of less than 10,000 viral copies per ml of plasma and a CD4<sup>+</sup> cell count of above 500 cells/ml prior to administration of the recombinant virus, and

ii. has been treated with one or more anti-viral agents, which contributed to a lower viral copy and higher CD4<sup>+</sup> cell count before treatment

where said peptides comprise immunodeficiency retroviral Gag, Gp120, Nef or Pol peptides.